

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SIG-03 MMO-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
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TRSY-02 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /152 R

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R 290448Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109999

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT CARTER, JIMMY) XA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP TO AFRICA

REF: CFR ISSUE NO.14 DATED APRIL 5, 1978

1. IN RESPONSE TO A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM AF POSTS,  
THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON  
THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP BEYOND THAT REPORTED IN REF AND THE  
WIRELESS FILE: THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL  
OBASANJO IN NIGERIA CENTERED ON TWO GENERAL TOPICS,  
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

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2. NAMIBIA - FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY  
VANCE AND FRONT LINE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO WERE IN LAGOS,  
THE PRESIDENT INFORMED GENERAL OBASANJO THAT IT WAS AGREED  
THAT THE 5 POWER PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA WOULD BE PUT BEFORE  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE PUBLIC POSITION OF THE FIVE  
WESTERN POWERS ON THE ISSUE OF WALVIS BAY IS THAT THE  
FUTURE OF THIS AREA SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA. THE FRONT LINE UNDERTOOK TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SAMNUJOMA TO DISCUSS HIS CONCURRENCE WITH THE PROPOSAL.

3. RELATIVE TO ZIMBABWE, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING PATRIOTIC FRONT AGREEMENT WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. SECRETARY VANCE'S PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RECENT DAR-ES-SALAAM MEETING WITH THE FRONT LINE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS WAS DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON.

4. ON SOUTH AFRICA, OBASANJO URGED THAT THE U.S. APPLY GREATER PRESSURE TO BRING AN END TO APARTHEID. THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED VARIOUS ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN TO DATE, BUT HASTENED TO POINT OUT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SEVER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND WITHDRAW OUR INVESTMENT FROM THAT COUNTRY AS IT WOULD BE FUTILE AND VIOLATE U.S. LAW. THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

5. THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NIGERIAN'S CENTERED ON THEIR INTEREST IN GREATER U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT. THE PROBLEMS OF DOING BUSINESS IN NIGERIA WERE EXPLAINED AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT THE WORKING LEVEL GROUPS (ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AGRICULTURE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND EDUCATION), WHICH HAD MET IN LAGOS FOLLOWING OBASANJO'S VISIT TO THE U.S., SHOULD MEET AGAIN IN WASHINGTON (THEY ARE NOW SET FOR APRIL 24) TO DISCUSS THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THE TWO LEADERS ASKED THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AT THESE WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS PREPARED REPORTS FOR THEM BY THE END OF MAY.

6. REGARDING THE HORN, OBASANJO DESCRIBED NIGERIA'S FRUSTRATED EFFORTS TO SET UP A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A DURABLE PEACE IN THE REGION WAS STILL REMOTE. THE PRESIDENT CONVEYED OUR CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN AND MENTIONED REPORTS THAT THE CUBANS WOULD SOON TAKE PART IN A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA.

7. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN LIBERIA CONSISTED OF AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN LAGOS. THE LIBERIANS PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT WITH A 29 PAGE DOCUMENT WHICH REVIEWED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, THE STATE OF THE LIBERIAN ECONOMY AND CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL

FOR A INCREASE IN U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

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## Message Attributes

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